

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ELDERCARE COALITION

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 5, 2024

8:30 a.m.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89966612080?pwd=Y2s1MU16dzdjbFkraFF4ZFZjcXNPQT09>

Meeting ID: 899 6661 2080

Passcode: 471844

In attendance: Cameron Young, Tyler McNeil, Rhonda Ward, Connor Pope, Marianne Mills, Tess Rouse, Linda Kruger, Joan O'Keefe, Erin Walker-Tolles, Sharyl Yeisley, Deb Craig, Jennifer Garrison, Emily Loyd, L – Johnson, Brandy Boggs, Stephanie Johnson, Marty Lange, Emily Palmer, Dave Ringle, Margaret Mimnaugh, Glenn Mitchell, Donna Lacour, Jim Swanson, Lori King, Dominique King, Alyssa Fernandez, Sioux Douglas.

1. **Call to Order** 8:33AM by Co-Chair Erin Walker-Tolles.

2. Agenda Approval

Sioux Douglas moved to approve the agenda with two additional items added:

- Old Business - Discussion update outreach to DSP agencies
- UAS Class Update

Linda Kruger seconded the motion and the agenda was approved with the two additions.

3. **Minutes Approval** – March 1, 2024 – attached

Motion to approve the SREC Coalition Minutes by Joan O'Keefe seconded by Linda Kruger. The minutes were approved as presented.

4. **SREC Project Director Report** – Tonya Muldoon

UAS Class Update: SREC Project has been developing a UAS DSP course that will be offered over five weeks with one week of in-person hands-on training in personal care. The training covered all the requirements to provide agency-based personal care services.

DSP Meeting: Has been scheduled for April 10. We hope to obtain additional feedback from the DSP agencies regarding workforce development and wage supplementation. Due to a question, Tonya explained the difference between DSP care and home care. DSP is a Direct Support Professional who provide services under a Medicaid Home and Community Wavier. There are two programs Consumer Directed DSP and Agency based DSP. DSPs offer a wide variety of services but are not medical providers. They are not licensed personnel. Home Care refers to skilled services that are provided by licensed staff such as skilled nursing, Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy and possible bath aid services (CNA) offered in a home setting.

5. **Steering Committee Report** – Erin Walker-Tolles/Sharyl Yeisley

Advocacy: Erin explained there is still hope for full FY24 funding of 2.7M for statewide senior grants. Continued advocacy for it is essential during legislative session. It is flat funding for eldercare. \$365,000 in SE Alaska.

Per Joan O’Keefe, SAIL continues to actively advocate for environmental modifications, particularly for seniors. Consumers with Medicaid Waivers are eligible for home modifications. There are several proposals to help fix the system, for example, raising the cap from \$18,5000 to \$40,000. House Finance amendments to HB268 and HB 270 passed the House and would raise the cap and exclude shipping costs within the estimate. Now is the time to lobby the Senate so these bills are in the final FY24 budget.

Marianne Mills encourages SREC participants to send emails or phone Senate Finance members to support the eldercare amendments being presented to the Senate for consideration, such as HB 268, which includes a \$2M increase for adult day services. Most important Senators to contact are David Wilson, Cathy Gressel, Elvi Gray-Jackson, James Kaufman and Loki Toben.

Erin said the SREC Steering Committee recommends that SREC join AgeNet to enhance advocacy and increase collaborations, connections and best practices.

Erin added that the SREC Steering Committee (SC) would like to have more representation from across the Southeast Region. We are continuing to look for additional people for the SC. We would like to have a wide diversity on the SC that includes various fields such as from the medical community, workforce

development, and tribal partners. The more diverse the SC is the stronger the leadership for the SREC Coalition.

6. Old Business

Summit Update – Tonya Muldoon

Preconference will be September 30, 2024. We are planning to have Mary McEwen and Cameron Young present Mental Health First Aid. We are working to establish a CPR instructor training. Both classes will have an online preconference and then an in-person component to complete as well. The Summit will be Oct 1-2 at Centennial Hall, Juneau, Alaska. We have space for some additional speakers and vendor tables. We are starting our work on the logistics for the conference. If you have an idea that you would like to suggest to be available at the Summit, a suggested speaker, or would like to speak about your program and/or would like to have a vendor table, please reach out to Tonya Muldoon at tmuldoon@jedc.org. The name of the conference is “SE Regional Eldercare Summit: Reconnecting the Community”.

7. New Business

Tonya Muldoon provided information on the DSP meeting during her update on the SREC Project. The meeting is scheduled for April 10.

8. Best Practices Presentations

- 1) Heather Richter, Bartlett Homecare and Hospice was not present to share with us today.
- 2) Lori King, Nurse, and Dominique King, Pedicurist, Ketchikan Foot Clinic

Lori and Dominique provided foot care in Ketchikan that was funded by an AARP grant. Lori lives in Boise ID and holds a specialist certification for foot care. At the clinic they served 44 people for foot care in the Ketchikan community. Several did not have regular foot care even in a facility. Foot care services are not typically offered in the community for persons living at home or in an Assisted Living Facility such as the Pioneer Home. There are two podiatrists who can sometimes be called into the community for some assistance. The nursing visit and a podiatrist visit vary in that the nursing visit conducted through the foot clinic also provided an opportunity for the nurse to educate the elders of both foot health but also risk factors such as diabetes and heart conditions. The elders were very pleased with the foot clinic and requested that they return regularly.

Lori and Dominique King are both very willing to provide the foot clinic again to the community. Ideally, they would love to be able to provide the foot clinic regularly every four months for the community. Lori King, despite residing in Idaho, is committed to the Ketchikan Community and is willing to fly to the community to provide the clinic if funding can be obtained to cover the related costs of travel. They asked the SREC Coalition for ideas regarding funding to help continue to foot clinic.

This recent foot clinic was initiated by Sharyl Yeisley, Bernice Metcalf met with AARP representatives in Ketchikan. They were able to emphasize the need for the service. Linda Kruger clarified that funding was provided by the Community Challenge grant from AARP, which is meant to be for pilot projects. She supports further efforts to obtain new grant funding elsewhere to keep the clinics operating.

Lori King noted that the Ketchikan community has seen an increased number of amputations in the last year. She adds that with most amputations below the knee that it is common for death to occur within 5 years. Foot care helps to reduce the chances of infection that often lead to amputations.

SREC members offered the following suggestions:

- i. SREC Coalition asked about other professionals providing the service in the community. Dr. Lam does not provide the same services, nor does Dr. De Grout. A question was posed to determine if there was a way to coordinate the clinics through the podiatrist so that regular billing to occur to help support the continued need for the foot clinic.
- ii. Federal podiatrist Grants:
https://www.federalgrantswire.com/health-professions-podiatry-federal-grants.html#google_vignette
- iii. Partnering with other agencies to provide the services or to seek funding from: SEARHC, KIC, First Bank, Lions's Club, or the Elks Lodge.
- iv. Rhonda Ward at BRH may have some contacts for funding, if needed. (907) 796-8900.

9. Event Reports

- i. Recent event outcomes:
 - o Path Academy will not be providing a class in Yakutat until November. They are currently scheduling a class in Sitka to start April 29-May 10 (see attachments).

- ii. Upcoming events:
 - o Allysa Fernandez announced that Riverview Senior Living in Juneau will soon be opening their Memory Care Neighborhood. They are holding an Open House April 19 from 3PM-5PM (see attachments).

10. Other

11. Member Comments

- Cameron Young, SEERC Path Academy would like to thank Glenn Mitchell and staff at the Ketchikan Job Center for providing the space, Tyler Mc Neil of Community Connections and SAIL for coming to present. The Path Academy was well received by the students. Cameron and Mary McEwen wanted to send out a huge thank you as they were very pleased with the collaborative efforts.
- Conner Pope introduced himself as a new employee at Rendezvous Senior Day Services in Ketchikan, Alaska. We welcome him joining the SREC Coalition.
- Sioux Douglas reported that an updated member list was sent to all members. It appears a few email addresses are wrong or blocked and she's working to resolve this. If you have not received a member list or have corrections/changes, please email Sioux siouxinak@gmail.com.
- Rhonda Ward, Bartlett Regional Hospital, Quality Department manages the Charity Patient and Family Advisory Council. They are working to get the public's opinion on partnerships. Please send to her additional information as your program develops.
- Just a reminder by Erin Walker-Tolles that the SREC Coalition is an open group for social service providers, elders, and their families.

Date of Next Meeting – May 3, 2024

12. Adjournment 9:30AM

13. Attachments:

- Path Academy Sitka Class April 29-May 10
- Riverview Senior Living Dementia Open House